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27 JAN 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Plans
Deputy Director for Support
Director of Planning, Programming,
and Budgeting

SUBJECT : Satellite Systems Requirements Study

1. Satellite systems have been employed in several ways to achieve operational capabilities critical to the mission of the Agency, and the need for these systems appears to be increasing.

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2. Because of the long lead time and great expense involved in satellite operations, a full appreciation of the alternatives possible in the use of satellites is critical to decisions which must be faced in the near future. Reduced budgets, BALPA, OPRED, and possible increases in Agency responsibilities which may evolve from the SALT discussions or other disarmament actions, the emergence of advanced weapons systems in non-bloc countries, and limitations on overseas bases further emphasize the need for determining our potential requirements in the future. It therefore appears timely for us to analyze and consolidate our future needs so that we may identify any Agency-peculiar and essential technologies which need to be emphasized. Additionally, we should develop a comprehensive awareness of the potential organizational impact of these future systems.

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3. With your cooperation and support I propose to have this important activity examined in detail, considering all planned and potential national programs, all possible future Agency needs for the next ten to fifteen years--operational restrictions as well as possible enhancement, policy items, organizational implications, and other pertinent factors. Subsequent to this study we can identify the actions which should be taken now and those which should be included in the R&D plan to achieve the greatest possible benefits within realistic manpower and budgetary restraints, giving appropriate consideration to commitments which have already been made to future collection and communications systems.

4. In order to undertake this examination of satellite systems requirements, there is appointed a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Don Steininger (ADDS&T) and composed of the following participants:

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5. To be of maximum use to us in our Planning, Programming, and Budget cycle, this study should be completed by 1 April 1970.

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L. K. White
Executive Director-Comptroller

cc: Director of Central Intelligence

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